

Top 10 root causes of falls when working in residential roofing

Masonry and bricklayer trades

Falls when working at heights are a significant concern in the residential roofing sector the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) serves, where they cause a notable number of lost-time injuries. IHSA, with support from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD), organized an initiative where a group of industry subject matter experts came together to examine the common causes of falls when working at heights. Together, they identified the following top 10 root causes for the masonry and bricklayer trades in the residential roofing sector.

Priority	Category		Primary root cause
1	Environment		Weather
2	Environment, culture, people		Site conditions
3	Culture		Old work practices
4	Processes, culture, tools & machines		Training
5	Processes, culture, tools & machines		Equipment setup and dismantling
6	Culture		Underground economy
7	Culture		No fall protection from start to finish
8	Processes, culture, tools & machines		Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
9	Tools & machines		Ladders
10	People		Fit for duty

Note: Some of the ranked numbers have multiple causes listed, as they resulted in a tie during the formal voting process. Visit [Working at Heights \(Falls\): Residential Roofing](#) at [IHSA.ca](#) to learn more and access tools and resources that assist workplaces with falls when working in residential roofing.